

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: U.S.-POLAND GRAIN UNDERSTANDING

LONDON FOR THIGPEN AND PLACKE

1. USDA RELEASED A STATEMENT LATE MONDAY INDICATING THAT SECRETARY BUTZ AND POLISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BARCI-KOWSKI AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF A SUPPLY UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND POLAND. IN FACT, THIS WAS ONLY AN AGREEMENT TO WORK TOWARD SOME KIND OF SUPPLY UNDERSTANDING IN THE FUTURE. IT DID NOT EVEN GET TO THE POINT OF AGREE-ING TO A FORMAL BEST EFFORTS COMMITMENT BY THE U.S. SOME MEDIA STORIES INDICATED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT SIGNIFIED THE END OF THE MORATORIUM ON GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO POLAND. THESE
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WERE ERRONEOUS REPORTS. THE HOLD ON GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO

POLAND UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE OCTOBER CROP REPORT IS STILL IN PLACE.

2. PARTIAL TEXT OF USDA NEWS RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE POLISH MINISTER EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN LONG-TERM PURCHASES OF GRAINS AND OTHER COMMODITIES ON THE U.S. MARKET. SECRETARY BUTZ NOTED THAT THE U.S. FULLY INTENDS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS AROUND THE WORLD AND THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE THAT POLAND'S PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL BE MET. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE DETAILED IMPORT PLANS NOW BEING PROVIDED BY POLAND ARE THE BEST WAY TO ASSURE THAT SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE SECRETARY AND THE MINISTER AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF A SUPPLY UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND POLAND. THE ACTUAL QUANTITIES TO BE COVERED BY THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL BE STUDIED WITH A VIEW TO COMING TO AGREEMENT DURING THE SECRETARY'S UPCOMING VISIT TO POLAND.

"BECAUSE OF POOR CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN POLAND AND OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES, THE MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT POLAND NEEDS TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF GRAIN THIS CALENDAR YEAR. SECRETARY BUTZ REPLIED THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ASSURE THAT POLAND CAN PURCHASE THE COMMODITIES IT STILL NEEDS FROM THE U.S.." INGERSOLL

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